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The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) strongly supports H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, and urges immediate House passage. This bi-partisan, compromise bill represents six years of work dedicated to modernizing the U.S. patent system. ITI intends to score the final vote of the Patent Reform Act as well as any amendments that negatively impact this consensus bill.

ITI's membership leads the innovation economy and includes seven of the top ten U.S. patent recipients of 2006. Our members understand the importance of safeguarding intellectual property and are concerned that the U.S. patent system has not kept pace with the demands of rapidly evolving and complex technologies. Patents are intended to encourage and protect innovation, but problems with low quality patents and an increase in abusive patent litigation practices are negatively impacting the ability of our member companies to innovate. As a result, U.S. companies are facing growing business uncertainty and the U.S. innovation economy is at risk.

The introduction of the Patent Reform Act of 2007 and recent voice-vote passage by the House Judiciary Committee signals the importance of this issue on the national agenda. The legislation will improve patent quality while making much needed revisions to the judicial process by clarifying the calculation of damages, determination of willful infringement and selection of appropriate venue.

ITI applauds your continued leadership on patent reform. Your efforts will preserve America's competitiveness in the global economy by returning balance and fairness to the United States' patent system.

Sincerely,

Rhett Dawson  
President